

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6386

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 6347

FOR: CU/IVP/V

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SW

SUBJECT: VOLUNTARY VISITOR (ERIKSSON, BIRGER)

1. POST REQUESTS FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE FOR MR. BIRGER ERIKSSON, DIRECTOR AND OWNER OF MEDiatechnik AB, AN EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING FIRM IN KIRUNA, SWEDEN. HE WILL VISIT THE UNITED STATES FEBRUARY 1-21 AND DESIRES A PROGRAM FEBRUARY 2-13, LIMITED TO THE EAST COAST. MEDiatechnik AB PROVIDES CONSULTING SERVICES TO PRIVATE COMPANIES AND GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES, ASSISTING IN SETTING UP EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS AND DEVELOPING IN-COMPANY TRAINING COURSES. HIS WORK AIMS AT NARROWING THE GAP BETWEEN EXISTING HIGH SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY CURRICULA, THE NEEDS OF INDUSTRY AND THE LABOR MARKET AND THE EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS, THE FUTURE EMPLOYEES. ACCORDING TO HIM, THERE IS CURRENTLY NO COORDINATION BETWEEN IN-COMPANY TRAINING PROGRAMS AND THE CURRICULUM OF THE SWEDISH EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

2. MR. ERIKSSON WISHES TO STUDY 1) CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH, WITH EMPHASIS ON PRACTICAL APPLICATION, AND EVALUATION OF HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE CURRICULA; 2) EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AS A SUBJECT AT UNIVERSITIES AND TEACHERS TRAINING COLLEGES: WHAT TECHNOLOGICAL MEANS AND OTHER MEDIA ARE AVAILABLE AND USED AS TOOLS IN MAKING EDUCATION

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(INCLUDING ADULT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION) SUIT

THE NEEDS OF INDUSTRY AND MEET THE EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS. PROBLEM IS BEST STATED BY POINTING TO THE CONFLICT BETWEEN A GENERAL LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION AND THE NEEDS OF MODERN INDUSTRIALIZED HIGH-TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY.

3. POST LEAVES PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS AND ITINERARY ENTIRELY UP TO THE DEPARTMENT. ON BASIS OF DISCUSSION WITH MR. ERIKSSON, WE SUGGEST THAT THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS BE INCLUDED: OFFICE OF EDUCATION, EDUCATIONAL TESTING SERVICES, (PRINCETON), COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS OF COMPANIES WITH APPROXIMATELY 500 EMPLOYEES. PLEASE MAKE MODESTLY PRICED HOTEL RESERVATIONS IN CITIES WHERE APPOINTMENTS ARE ARRANGED AND ADVISE DEPARTMENTS PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS.

4. BIOGRAPHIC DATA:

- A) ERIKSSON, BIRGER
- B) BORN IN KARUNA, NOVEMBER 20, 1938
- C) PRESENTLY OWNER AND DIRECTOR OF MEDIATEKNIK AB, KIRUNA, SINCE 1970 (EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING FIRM WITH 6 EMPLOYEES).
- D) HOME ADDRESS: BOX 346, 98101 KIRUNA 1
- E) SWEDISH CITIZEN
- F) FIL. KAND. (B.A) IN EDUCATION, SOCIOLOGY AND EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY FROM LUND UNIVERSITY, 1973.
- G) HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER FOR FIVE YEARS, HEAD OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF LKAB FOR FIVE YEARS (SWEDEN'S LARGEST MINING INDUSTRY) OWN COMPANY SINCE 1970.
- H) PUBLISHED TEXTBOOKS, AUDIOVISUAL MATERIAL AND PROGRAMMED INSTRUCTION IN TECHNICAL SUBJECT.
- I) TRAVELS IN EUROPE.
- J) GOOD ENGLISH.
- K) ETA NEW YORK FEBRUARY 1, PROGRAM REQUESTED FEBRUARY 2-13, PRIVATE STAY FEBRUARY 14-21. ETD NEW YORK FEBRUARY 21.

5. PLEASE SEND NAME OF PROGRAM OFFICER, HOTELS, AND SUGGESTED ITINERARY.
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